

Village of Croton-on-Hudson  
Water Control Commission Meeting of  
June 24, 2015

**PRESENT:** Charles Kane, Acting Chair  
Ian Arturo  
Mark Goldfarb (7:55 P.M. Arrival)  
Gail Sasso

**ABSENT:** Stuart Greenbaum, Chair

**ALSO PRESENT:** Daniel O'Connor, Village Engineer

**1. Call to Order:**

The Water Control Commission Meeting of June 24, 2015 was called to order at 7:30 P.M.

**2. New Business:**

- a) **Thomas Lewis, Trillium Invasive Species Management, Inc. – 10 Fox Road (Section 67.12 Block 1 Lots 13 and 5)** – Application for phragmites australis patch eradication project involving cutting and herbicide application within the Jane E. Lytle Memorial Arboretum.

Mr. Lewis presented the application. He said he is the owner of Trillium Invasive Species Management, Inc. and that he had been contacted by the Arboretum to eliminate the dense patch of phragmites in and around the wetland as indicated on the Phragmites Control Project Map included in the application documentation. The plan is to perform cutting in the area several times during the growing season which will make the phragmites more accessible and will help get rid of the density of the plants. The phragmites will then be weakened. This will be followed by a spray application of a glyphosate based herbicide called Rodeo. Cutting has already taken place once, cutting will take place again in about a month and then the herbicide will be applied if the permit is granted. He said he will have other means of application of the herbicide available such as a back pack sprayer and hand wiping during the treatment as the need arises. The goal is full eradication so it will take three to five years of control, followed by a three year period of monitoring. He said full eradication may not be possible which would then mean an ongoing process of control. The projected timeframe for this project is six to seven years.

The different methods of control were discussed by Village Engineer, Daniel O'Connor, and Mr. Lewis. Mr. O'Connor said the method that is selected depends on the situation.

Mr. Arturo asked if the phragmites patch in the Arboretum was hydrologically connected to the phragmites at the Hudson National Golf Club (HNGC). When Mr. Lewis

suggested it was, Mr. Arturo advised talking to HNGC to get them to help. Mr. Lewis said he had been in contact with HNGC and had been on the golf course property. He said HNGC had expressed interest in controlling the phragmites but that he had not received a commitment from them.

Ms. Sasso asked if phragmites were indigenous to our area. Mr. Lewis replied that the phragmites were non-native and could create potential harm and that they create seeds and runners that can reach 20 feet.

Acting Chairman Kane said that there was a short paper from around 2003 with information about how phragmites grow and control management of phragmites, in particular at Kaplan's Pond, that had been brought before the WCC back then and that he would try to locate it for the Board.

Acting Chairman Kane then had a question as to whether there were any bodies of water downstream of the herbicide application site and Mr. Lewis responded that Kaplan's Pond is about one mile away from the site. Acting Chairman Kane followed up with another question as to whether the Hudson River or any other body of water could be affected by the Rodeo. Mr. Lewis replied that the Rodeo breaks down quickly; it metabolizes in the soil and gets broken down in the soil, and will not migrate off the application site.

Mr. Arturo stated that as far as he was aware, Rodeo was the least harmful of the available herbicides.

Acting Chairman Kane questioned issuing a permit for a 7-year project and suggested a 1-year permit that could be renewable annually following a report to the Village Engineer. He also suggested that a site visit be made before any decision is made. Mr. Lewis said he understood the concern and countered with a possible 2 – 3 year permit.

Ms. Sasso also suggested a shorter permit with regular reporting of how much herbicide was applied, how effective it was, and if not effective why. She felt regular reporting would also make sure there were no changes or threats.

Mr. Lewis said that reporting the change in density of the phragmites would make more sense than reporting the change in acreage coverage.

Mr. O'Connor said reporting would look at the effectiveness on non-targeted species also.

In response to Acting Chairman Kane's question, Mr. Lewis said he would try to use the least amount of herbicide possible; that he would probably be applying quarts not gallons. Additionally in response to Mr. O'Connor's inquiry, he said the depth of water would not have much influence on the treatment.

Mr. O'Connor mentioned that the project included treatment of other non-invasive species such as Burning Bush, Multiflora, and Japanese Stiltgrass.

Mr. Lewis said he hoped to apply the herbicide in September.

Mr. Arturo asked what the plan was to prevent the re-growth of the phragmites in a few years and Mr. O'Connor replied that the Arboretum organization is very vigilant and watches on a weekly basis. Reporting could be requested from them or some form of follow-up.

Acting Chairman Kane said that starving the root system is the key to controlling the phragmites and said he thought the herbicide spray application would not be effective. He suggested injection by hand or cutting and applying by hand.

Mr. Goldfarb questioned what else the herbicide might kill.

Mr. Arturo said that the Arboretum would likely have limited resources and has probably done a cost benefit analysis for the proposed phragmites treatment.

Mr. O'Connor said the project is labor intensive and the labor would account for most of the cost as opposed to the cost of the herbicide. He said Mr. Lewis is trained and licensed and falls under DEC regulations. Also, as a result of Mr. Goldfarb's question, Mr. O'Connor said he doubted it but he would inquire as to whether HNGC had a phragmites management plan.

The Board's discussion concluded with a request for a site visit to the Arboretum and a search for the 2003 documentation on the phragmites management at Kaplan's Pond.

- b) **Con Edison Corporation – Croton River Drilling Project** – Application for one-year extension of Wetland Permit #20140004 issued on July 16, 2014 for Horizontal Directional Drilling under Croton River for new electrical line at former Route 9 Bridge over Croton River.

There were no representatives from Con Edison present so Mr. O'Connor explained that the original proposed project had not changed and that the sole reason for tonight's application was due to the delay in getting the required easements from Historic Hudson Valley and the NYS Office of General Services. Authorization from the United States Army Corps of Engineers and the NYS Department of State were also still pending.

Mr. Goldfarb made a motion to approve a one-year extension of Wetland Permit #20140004 and to approve the draft resolution. The motion was seconded by Ms. Sasso. The motion passed with a vote of 4 to 0.

### **3. Approval of Minutes:**

Ms. Sasso made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 18, 2015 meeting of the Water Control Commission. The motion was seconded by Mr. Goldfarb and was passed with a vote of 4 to 0.

**4. Adjournment:**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Toni Cruz  
Secretary, Water Control Commission